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Frederick R. Dowsett, Ph.D., Unit Leader
Monitoring and Enforcement
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division
Colorado Department of Health
4210 East 11th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80220

Dear Dr. Dowsett:

This letter provides additional explanation as requested which expands the EG&G Rocky Flats, Inc. rationale for recharacterizing the Building 778 wastewater as non-hazardous. The revised hazardous waste determinations are in accordance with the Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations 6 CCR 1007-3. This will also update the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Contingency Implementation Report No. 91-030.

Laundry wastewater is generated from the washing of surgical caps, booties, socks, underwear, brassieres, T-shirts and coveralls. On an average day, approximately 18,000 pounds of clothing are processed with 25,000 gallons of water, 100 pounds of detergent, 5 gallons of water softener, and 1 gallon of bleach. Laundering is performed to sanitize clothing required in the performance of routine daily activities. It is not intended as a treatment process for hazardous waste.

Some of these clothes may have acquired incidental contamination from contact with miscellaneous solvent mixtures. It is reasonable to assume that a significant amount of this contamination (however small the actual contamination) is from "de minimis losses" [Section 261.3(a)(2)(iv)(D)] which inadvertently came into contact with the clothing during maintenance operations. This residual contamination does not result in the wastewater exhibiting any of the characteristics of hazardous waste as defined in Subpart C of Part 261.

There are plant-wide administrative policies which require the wearing of disposable personal protective clothing during the use or involvement with hazardous/regulated materials. This clothing is disposed of in accordance with regulatory requirements and is never introduced into the laundering process. The Excess Chemical Program is also limiting the procurement and encouraging the reduction of regulated chemicals (i.e., solvents). The goal is to replace as many regulated chemicals as possible with environmentally acceptable alternatives.

In the past, the Rocky Flats Plant has interpreted the regulations to mean that the clothing was regulated as a hazardous waste. Based on recent reevaluations and current analytical data, the clothing is not a solid waste or a hazardous waste. Therefore, the resulting

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wastewaters are not subject to regulation under the "Mixture" rule 6 CCR 1007-3 [Section 261.3(a)(2)(iv) or the "Derived-From" rule [Section 261.3(c)(2)(i)]. By definition, for a waste to be a hazardous waste, it must first be a solid waste. A material reused as an effective substitute for a commercial product, is considered to be "recycled" under [Section 261.1(d)(5)&(7)]. The definition of a solid waste specifically excludes materials that can be shown to be recycled by being used or reused as effective substitutes for commercial products [Section 261.2(e)(ii)]. This type of material is only solid waste if thrown away (discarded) and is not solid waste if reclaimed (i.e., recycled).

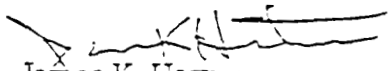
The clothing is suspected to have been contaminated by incidental contact with a mixture of miscellaneous solvents, (some of which are presumed to be Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste). However, the contaminated clothing is recycled and reused as an effective substitute for a commercial product. Thus, it is excluded from regulation as a solid waste or hazardous waste and is not subject to the RCRA subtitle C hazardous waste regulations. Therefore, the laundering process does not constitute treatment of a hazardous waste and neither the "Mixture" rule [Section 261.3(a)(2)(iv)] nor the "Derived From" rule [Section 261.3(c)(2)(i)] applies.

The laundering procedure is not a hazardous waste treatment process and the resulting wastewater would be considered a hazardous waste only if it exhibits one or more hazardous waste characteristics under 6 CCR 1007-3. Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure analytical results from two separate samples of this wastewater also indicate that it is not a characteristic hazardous waste.

A sampling program has been established to routinely analyze the wastewater waste stream to demonstrate its non-hazardous status. The wastewater will be analyzed for those hazardous constituents and characteristics that are reasonably expected to be present. The program involves taking four samples of the wastewater waste stream; one each week for four weeks, then one each month for 12 months. The first sample was taken on June 9, 1992, and the subsequent sampling will continue through June 1993.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Tom Lukow at 966-4561 or Joe Wienand at 966-5926.

Sincerely,


James K. Hartman
Assistant Manager
(for Environmental Management)

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